

SOMERVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

Location: Virtual meeting via GoToWebinar

Date: February 16, 2022

Time: The Chair convened the meeting at 5:31pm.

ATTENDANCE:

SRA Members Present: Iwona Bonney, Phillip Ercolini, Ben Ewen-Campen, William Gage, Patrick McCormick, Christine Stone.

SRA Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Eileen McGettigan (Special Counsel), Tom Galligani (Director of Economic Development), Rachel Nadkarni (Senior Planner).

AGENDA ITEMS:

Staff presented virtual meeting house rules to the Board.

1. Approval of January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Bonney moved approval. Seconded by Mr. Gage. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote (Ms. Stone had not yet joined the meeting.)

2. Public Comment:

- None.

Ms. McGettigan asked the Chair to take items out of order so that Ms. Stone could be present for the election of officers.

3. 90 Washington Street Update:

- The Chair elected to take this item out of order.
- Mr. Galligani stated that there is a virtual public meeting on the 90 Washington Street project immediately following this meeting at 6:00pm and that registration can be found at somerillema.gov/90washington.
- No questions were asked.

4. Winter Hill (WHURP) Update:

- Ms. Nadkarni reported that the Civic Advisory Committee (CAC) had an introductory meeting. A neighborhood meeting is planned for February 23, 2022. The CAC hopes to hold a public meeting in early April.
- A member of the public, Mr. Ron Cavallo of 70 Victoria Street, introduced himself. As a long term resident and property owner, he is unhappy with the City's direction and so is taking a more active interest in the operations of City boards and commissions.

Ms. Stone joined the meeting at 5:39 pm.

5. Elections of Officers:

- Mr. Gage nominated Mr. Ercolini as Chair. Ms. Bonney seconded. Unanimously approved 6-0-0 by roll call vote.
- Mr. Gage nominated Ms. Bonney as Secretary. Mr. McCormick seconded. Unanimously approved 6-0-0 by roll call vote.

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6. Union Square Update:

- Mr. Galligani provided an update. The Union Square Green Line station is expected to be open at the end of March, as long as the weather cooperates.
- The buildings on the D2 Parcel are going vertical. US2 will begin demolition on D3.1, the former Beacon Sales property.
- Mr. Gage asked Mr. Galligani about a date for the opening of the new Green Line Extension station. Mr. Galligani responded that the City expects the station to open around the end of March.
- Mr. Ewen-Campen stated that the City Council had received a letter from the union representing Royal Hospitality workers and asked if Mr. Galligani had an update on the timing of Royal Hospitality's move. Mr. Galligani requested to return to this at the March meeting so that research can be done.
- Ms. Stone asked if there was an update on the timing of the Tufts-Medford branch of the Green Line. Mr. Galligani did not have any update on the schedule for opening that branch.
- No public comment was received on this item.

7. Boynton Yards Update:

- Ms. Nadkarni provided an update. She noted that the first building, 101 South Street, is approximately 60% occupied. Foundation work has also begun on Building 2.
- No public comment was received on this item.

8. Assembly Square Update:

- Mr. Galligani provided an update. There are no new announcements as far as businesses but the level of activity is picking up. Mr. Galligani also stated that the Assembly Square Vision Plan is in the final stages of revisions and will be brought to the Planning Board and City Council in the coming months.
- Mr. Ercolini asked about police and fire space at Assembly Square. Mr. Galligani noted that the neighborhood police station has been open for several years. He stated that the fire station construction will proceed with the Biomed Realty building and will take about 18 months - 2 years to complete.
- Mr. Ewen-Campen asked about SRA's role in the Vision Plan. Mr. Galligani stated that the SRA does not have review authority on the Vision Plan, however one proposal is for the SRA to advance an urban renewal plan for the balance of the property in the district. Mr. Galligani offered to connect with the Planning staff on a presentation to the SRA about the Vision Plan. Mr. Ercolini and Mr. Gage noted that they would appreciate hearing from the Planning staff.
- No public comment was received on this item.

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9. Other Business:

- Mr. Ercolini described an announcement from the Mayor's Office on a policy to diversify the membership of boards and commissions. Mr. Galligani noted that there is an SRA vacancy at the moment.
- Mr. McCormick requested that the SRA provide a statement of support to the Mayor's Office for this effort to diversify boards and commissions.
- Mr. Ercolini asked if there was any additional public comment or questions. No further public comment was received.
- Mr. Ercolini reminded those in attendance that there is a 90 Washington Street webinar meeting beginning now. Mr. Galligani reiterated the web address for registration.

Meeting Adjournment:

Ms. Bonney moved to adjourn at 6:01pm. Mr. Ewen-Campen seconded. The motion was unanimously approved 6-0-0 by roll call vote.